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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,625	11/06/2001	Goran Brottgardh	128. 822PAT	4684

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EXAMINER

ALVO, MARC S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/991,625

Applicant(s)

BROTTGARDH ET AL

Examiner

Steve Alvo

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
 Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2004.
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13 and 15-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13 and 15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 12 and 16-25 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5-14-2004
 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) ☐ Other: _____

Applicant has sent copies of U.S. Patents 6,306,259 and 4,559,104 as equivalent translations of SE-C-512753 and SE-C-448009 respectively. These U.S. Patents will be accepted by the Office as equivalent to SE-C-512753 and SE-C-448009 and will be used as translations of these documents.

The restriction requirement of April 2004 is repeated and made Final. Claims 11-12 and 16-25 were elected without traverse. Claims 13 and 15 are withdrawn from consideration.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-12, 16-18 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SE-C-512753 (6,306,259 relied on as translation) in view of BERGGREN (4,997,578) with or without PERNEBORN (5,498,115).

SE-C-512753 teaches a wash press which distributes pulp via 2 inlets onto drums 2a and 2b using feed screws 4a and 4b running horizontally and transverse to the pulp web being washed and the distributor device is arranged is arranged at the very top of the dewatering drums and the wash zone extends over 270°. BERGGREN teaches a feeding and dewatering screw having perforations for the water to drain at the bottom of the screw's casing is well known in the art, see Figure 1 of BERGGREN where drainage arrows are shown allowing water to drain through perforations at the bottom of the casing. It would have been obvious to have perforations in the lower half of the feed screw of SE-C-512753 to aid in the dewatering as the pulp is fed into the filter drums of SE-C-512753 as such dewatering perforations is taught by

BERGGREN. Obviously the perforations would be along a generatrix, since such reads on a straight line. If not obvious that the perforations of BERGGREN would be along a generatrix then PERNEBORN teaches using holes distributed along the generatrix of a screw feeding device housing for pulp, at the lowest part of the screw, allows the even distribution of the pulp along the mat forming drum (column 3, lines 10-11). It would have been obvious that holes distributed along the housing of the feeding screw of SE-C-512753 in the manner taught by PERNEBORN would allow even distribution of the pulp to the drums 2a and 2b. It would have been obvious to size the hole large enough to let the fibers pass through.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SE-C-512753 (6,306,259 relied on as translation) in view of BERGGREN (4,997,578) with or without PERNEBORN (5,498,115) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of SE-C-448009 or BERGER or WALLEN or KLAUSEN.

The increasing and decreasing the speed of pulp through a slurry by increasing and decreasing the diameter and pitch of the feed screw is well known in the art as taught by SE-C-448009 or BERGER or WALLEN or KLAUSEN. It would have been prima facie obvious to increase and decrease the feed of the pulp flow of SE-C-512753 and/or PERNEBORN (5,498,115) by increasing the screw diameter or the thread pitch as taught by SE-C-448009 or BERGER or WALLEN or KLAUSEN.

The 35 USC 112 rejections have been dropped as the claims have been clarified.

The arguments with respect to PENNEBORN are not convincing as the dewatering through the bottom of the casing, e.g. below the axis of rotation, would have been obvious from

the teachings of Figure 1 of BERGGREN. PENNEBORN is merely relied on, if necessary, to teach the placement of perforations along a generatrix.

Applicant's amendment, "wherein holes are located below the axis of rotation", necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

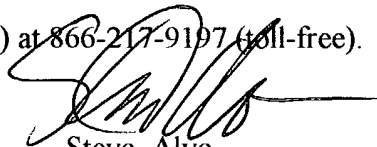
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Alvo whose telephone number is 571-272-1185. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:45 AM - 2:15 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Steve Alvo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

msa